

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

MCT-01 /093 W

-----082612 050118Z /70

R 040918Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5800

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 3132

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, SOPN, ET, TZ

SUBJECT: SOMALI PRESS CONFERENCE ON DISPUTE WITH ETHIOPIA

SUMMARY. SOMALI CHARGE AT AUGUST 3 PRESS CONFERENCE PLACED BLAME FOR ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI STRIFE ON BOTH IMPERIAL AND PRESENT MILITARY REGIMES OF ETHIOPIA. SOMALIA'S EFFORTS TO FIND PEACE HAD BEEN FRUSTRATED BY ETHIOPIAN INTRASIGENCE. SOMALIA WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO A LIBERATION WAR BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN SOMALIA AND THE REGIME IN ADDIS ABABA BUT WOULD DEFEND ITSELF IF ATTACKED. OAU AND UN WERE CALLED UPON TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA TO HALT FURTHER BLOODSHED AND SUFFERING. END SUMMARY.

1. SOMALI CHARGE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 3 ON SHORT NOTICE. CHARGE READ STATEMENT CHARGING ETHIOPIA WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENTS "WITH OMINOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY." CHARGE TOOK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONS AFTER READING STATEMENT. SHE SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW IF SOMALI MISSIONS ELSEWHERE WERE HOLDING SIMILAR PRESS CONFERENCES.

2. STATEMENT DISCUSSED HISTORY OF ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI STRIFE. IT CITED INDISCRIMINATE KILLINGS AND CHAOS IN ETHIOPIA UNDER EPMG. SOMALIA'S EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH ETHIOPIA HAD BEEN TO NO AVAIL. SOMALIA REJECTED FALSE ACCUSATIONS THAT IT HAD

INVADED ETHIOPIA. IT WOULD NOT BE "DRAWN INTO WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY
A LIBERATION WAR BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN SOMALIA AND THE
COLONIAL REGIME IN ADDIS ABABA."

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, CHARGE STATED WESTERN SOMALI
LIBERATION FRONT WAS RECEIVING NO MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM SOMALI
GOVERNMENT. SHE DID NOT KNOW WHERE LIBERATION MOVEMENT WAS GETTING
ITS ARMS. SOMALIA OFFERED ONLY MORAL SUPPORT TO THE WESTERN
SOMALIS. IT DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO CONTROL THEM. SHE NOTED
THAT 76 ETHIOPIAN TOWNS HAD FALLEN AND MENTIONED JULY 31
MASSACRE OF SOMALIS BY ETHIOPIANS. CHARGE STATED RELATIONS
BETWEEN SOMALIA AND USSR WERE "VERY STRONG." SOVIET EXPERTS WERE
NOT LEAVING AS FAR AS SHE KNEW.

4. CHARGE SAID OAU MIGHT CONSIDER THE PROBLEM NEXT WEEK AND
IT WAS HOPED THE OAU COMMITTEE OF EIGHT (ESTABLISHED IN 1973 TO
HELP RESOLVE THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA) WOULD
MEET. SOMALIA DID NOT WANT WAR AND WOULD ACCEPT ANY PEACEFUL
SOLUTION.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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